

## A BICEPHALOUS SNAKE.

BY H. A. LONGMAN, DIRECTOR.

(Plate XXVII.)

In September, 1938, we received a specimen of a bicephalous snake from Mr. J. P. Forbes, of Mullumbimby, New South Wales, with the information that it was obtained about sixteen years ago.

As this is the first local record of a bicephalous snake known to the writer, it has been thought worthy of brief notice.

The snake is obviously a young specimen of the Common Black Snake *Pseudechis porphyriacus*. As it is only ten inches (250 mm.) in maximum length, it is doubtful whether it lived to feed, as it is approximately the length and size of Black Snakes at birth. Almost immediately behind the head the two anterior regions are united to a single body, and the scales are numerous and irregular in this region. A short distance posteriorly, however, the normal series of seventeen body scales may be counted. There are no special peculiarities to be noted in either of the two heads and the lepidosis of the posterior part of the body is normal. As the specimen has been preserved for so many years, it seems undesirable to make dissections.

In 1925 J. Strohl gave records of sixty-eight instances of this abnormality.<sup>1</sup> J. Miguel Ladeiro in 1935 illustrated with a radiograph a specimen of *Tropidonotus natrix* in the Coimbra Museum.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> 1925. J. Strohl, Ann. Sci. Nat. Zool., 8, pp. 105-132.

<sup>2</sup> 1935. J. Miguel Ladeiro, Mem. Estudos Mus. Zool. Univ. Coimbra, Ser. IV, No. 2.